

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A rotating therapeutic bed comprising:
 - a structural base which in turn includes wheels located at ~~[[its]]~~ a lower portion of the structural base to allow the bed to be moved from one place to another;
 - a first removable stretcher having a first mattress to support a patient laying on his back;
 - a second removable stretcher having a second mattress which is located in a reversed fashion ~~[[and]]~~ over the first stretcher and over the patient, who is laying between the mattresses of both stretchers~~[[;]]~~, the second stretcher supporting the patient laying face down when the stretchers are rotated by 180° ~~[[on]]~~ about a rotation axis ~~crossing~~ extending along the patient; ~~front and rear members to mount and rotate the stretchers which are~~ stretcher mounting and rotation members to rotationally mounted mount the stretchers on the structural base~~[[;]]~~, the first and second stretchers being longitudinally mounted with a vertical spacing between them on ~~such the~~ the stretcher mounting and rotation members, which further allow them to rotate ~~them~~; and
 - side barriers coupled to ~~[[the]]~~ longitudinal sides of the first stretcher~~[[,]]~~ as well as to longitudinal sides of the second stretcher, ~~such the~~ the barriers covering the vertical spacing between the stretchers where the patient is laying, thereby preventing the limbs of the patient from protruding out of the stretchers when rotated.

2. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 1,

wherein the structural base comprises:

a front section and a rear section, each formed [[by]] with a horizontal portion and a vertical portion mounted on the ~~corresponding~~ horizontal portion, thereby forming an "L" shape;

an elongated intermediate section longitudinally placed on the lower portion of the structural base and attaching the front section to the rear section; and

rear and front support sections for mounting ~~such~~ the stretcher mounting and rotation members, the support sections being integrally provided at the upper half of the front section and at the upper half of the rear section, in addition to [[be]] being perpendicularly provided with respect to the rotation axis [[on]] about which the patient[[-]] is rotated by 180°.

3. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 2,
wherein the structural base is made of metal straight tubular profiles.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 2,
wherein the structural base includes also a pair of conduits, each conduit being provided on ~~every~~
each of the rear and front support sections, crossing [[its]] the width of each support section from
one side to another, ~~such~~ the conduits being coaxially lined up with the ~~patient~~ rotation axis, ~~in~~
~~order to introduce towards the stretchers~~ traction means for the stretchers, thereby allowing the
cervical traction therapy of the patient to be performed ~~the cervical traction therapy of the patient~~

or, if it is the case, saline solution lines or other lines to be introduced ~~saline solution lines or~~
~~lines with other~~ for taking medical care ~~directed to~~ of the patient.

5. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 2,
wherein the structural base comprises, at [[its]] an inner portion of the structural base, stretcher
lifting and tilting means that are independently provided [[in]] at the front section[[,]] as well as
at the rear section, and ~~which~~ are actuated in such a manner, on the inner sides of the rear and
front sections, ~~that they~~ to allow the vertical portions to be lifted ~~its vertical portions~~ over the
respective horizontal portions, thereby lifting ~~thus~~ the height of ~~such~~ the stretchers[[.]],

~~When such~~ wherein when the stretcher lifting and tilting means act only on the front
section or rear section, [[the]] a plane of the stretcher where the patient is laying is tilted, thereby
providing ~~thus the~~ a Trendelenburg position.

6. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 1,
wherein ~~every~~ each of the rear and front stretcher mounting and rotation members comprises:

a rotating hollow housing that is divided [[in]] by a hollow intermediate section [[in]]
having a cylindrical shape, ~~which is~~ the hollow intermediate section being coaxially lined up to
the ~~patient~~ rotation axis;

a first radial section[[;]] and a second radial section, both radial sections being hollowed
and in a cylindrical shape, which are perpendicularly located [[on]] with respect to the hollow
intermediate section and attached to [[it;]] the hollow intermediate section, the radial sections

being further placed in the hollow housing in an ~~extremely opposed relation from~~ opposite
manner to one another each other;

a rotation support axis provided ~~at the~~ in an inner portion of the intermediate section and
securely attached by one of ~~[[its]]~~ ends of the support axis to the structural base for the rotation
of ~~such a~~ the housing ~~on it~~ about the support axis;

a bearing placed between the rotation support axis and ~~[[the]]~~ an inner wall of the
intermediate section, allowing a smooth and homogeneous rotation of the housing ~~on such a~~
about the fixed rotation support axis and thus the rotational movement of the stretchers and the
patient; and

stretcher securing means or jaws provided at ~~[[the]]~~ a distal portion of ~~every~~ each of the
first and second radial sections, ~~every~~ each of the stretcher securing means or jaws being
mounted on a mounting axis coaxially placed ~~at the~~ in an inner portion of ~~every~~ each of the radial
sections ~~of the housing~~ of the housing ~~[[,]]~~, the first and second stretchers being mounted on ~~such~~ the stretcher
securing means.

7. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to ~~claim 4~~ claim
6, wherein ~~such a~~ the rotation support axis is ~~preferably~~ formed ~~[[by]]~~ with a steel tube section
and coaxially lined up to ~~such~~ the conduits for the introduction of traction means.

8. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 6,
wherein the bearing is a rotation bearing or bushing made of bronze.

9. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 6, wherein the mounting axis of ~~every~~ each of the stretcher securing means is threaded ~~on its~~ at a proximal portion of each of the stretcher securing means with respect to the rotation support axis and is smooth at [[its]] a distal portion of each of the stretcher securing means [[:]], and ~~every~~ each of the stretcher securing means comprises:

a proximal plate attached to the threaded portion of the mounting axis and ~~that may be moved on it in order~~ movable along the mounting axis to adjust the height at which the stretchers are mounted with respect to the rotation support axis;

a distal plate apart from the proximal plate and ~~that slides freely~~ slidable on [[the]] a flat surface of the mounting axis, the distal plate being attached to the proximal plate by means of a connection element; and

a closing lever which is operatively attached to the connection element, ~~that the closing lever,~~ at [[its]] a closing position of the closing lever, ~~reduces~~ reducing the spacing ~~distance~~ between the proximal plate and the distal plate ~~in order~~ to firmly secure the first stretcher or the second stretcher in such a manner that, with ~~such a~~ the distance reduction between plates, the stretchers are firmly mounted.

10. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 6, wherein ~~every~~ each of the stretcher mounting and rotation members further includes a removable stop element placed at [[the]] a free end of the ~~fixed~~ rotation support axis, ~~that~~ which prevents

undesired horizontal movements of the housing ~~[[on]]~~ around the ~~fixed~~ rotation support axis~~[[.]]~~,
~~thereby. When removed, such a~~ when the stop element is removed, allows allowing the
disassembly of the stretcher mounting and rotation members from the structural base.

11. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 1,
~~wherein it further comprises~~ comprising:

internal rotation-blocking means provided at the inner portion of ~~every~~ each of the
stretcher mounting and rotation members, which, when being at ~~their~~ a blocking position of the
internal rotation-blocking means, internally allow ~~their~~ a rotational movement of the stretcher
mounting and rotation members and prevent ~~thus~~ the stretchers and the patient ~~to be~~ from being
rotated when the bed is only partially assembled; and

external rotation-blocking means provided at the structural base, which, when being at
~~their~~ a blocking position of the external rotation-blocking means, externally avoid the ~~rotationally~~
rotational movement of at least one of the ~~member to mount and to rotate stretchers~~ stretcher
mounting and rotation members, thereby preventing ~~thus both the~~ stretchers and the patient ~~to be~~
from being rotated~~[[;]]~~.

wherein the internal and external rotation-blocking means act together so that the rotation
of the stretchers is achieved only when the first stretcher and the second stretcher are firmly
mounted on the stretcher mounting and rotation members, ~~as well as~~ and only when the side
barriers are mounted on ~~both~~ the stretchers, whereby the internal rotation-blocking means are

automatically released to achieve ~~then~~ a 180° rotation of the stretchers upon manually releasing the external rotation-blocking means.

12. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 11, wherein the external rotation-blocking means block the ~~rotationally~~ rotational movement of the rear stretcher mounting and rotation members.

13. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 11, wherein the internal rotation-blocking means are provided in pairs within ~~every~~ each of the rear and front ~~member to mount rotate stretchers~~ stretcher mounting and rotation members, each pair being housed in ~~every~~ each of the radial sections ~~of the housing~~.

14. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 13, wherein the internal rotation-blocking means comprise:

a main body traveling at the inner part of one of the ~~corresponding~~ radial sections ~~of the housing of the stretcher mounting and rotation members~~[[;]], ~~such~~ the main body being in a cylindrical shape and divided in two sections: a proximal main body portion and a distal main body portion having a diameter ~~less~~ smaller than ~~that of the proximal section~~ proximal main body portion, ~~such~~ the main body being attached to the mounting axis of the stretcher securing means;

a blocking safety device attached to the proximal ~~[[end]]~~ main body portion of the main body; and

a stop that is secured to the end of one of the ~~corresponding~~ radial sections ~~of the housing~~ of the stretcher mounting and rotation members~~[[;]]~~,

wherein the blocking safety device ~~blocking~~ blocks the rotation of the housing when ~~[[it]]~~ the blocking safety device is within a cooperating cavity provided on the ~~fixed~~ rotation support axis for ~~every~~ each of ~~such~~ pair of the internal rotation-blocking means, the blocking safety device being released from ~~such a~~ the cavity when the main body travels within the one of the ~~corresponding~~ radial sections ~~of the housing~~ a sufficient distance in order for distal the main body ~~distal~~ portion to protrude from ~~such a~~ the radial section~~[[;]]~~, the movement being stopped by the stop, ~~also~~ which preventing the proximal main body ~~proximal~~ portion from protruding from the housing.

15. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 11, wherein the external rotation-blocking means comprise:

a housing attached to the structural base support section; and

a retractile bolt crossing the housing from one side to another~~[[;]]~~,

wherein, at ~~[[the]]~~ a blocking position, ~~[[the]]~~ a first end of ~~such a~~ the bolt is housed within a first cavity provided in ~~[[the]]~~ a middle part of the housing of the stretcher mounting and rotation members, whereby ~~[[its]]~~ the ~~rotationally~~ rotational movement of the bolt is externally blocked; and ~~[[the]]~~ a second end of the bolt is provided with a ring allowing the bolt to be

manually moved ~~the bolt, in order~~ to remove ~~[[it]]~~ the first end of the bolt ~~[[out]]~~ from the first cavity, whereby the bed is free for a 180° rotation.

16. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 15, wherein, upon completing the 180° rotation, the first end of the retractile bolt is automatically housed in a second cavity provided in the housing of the stretcher mounting and rotation members in an ~~extremely opposed~~ opposite fashion to the first cavity, whereby the ~~rotationally~~ rotational movement is blocked again.

17. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 1, wherein, in addition to the first mattress, the first stretcher comprises:

a main frame in a rectangular shape including stretcher mounting sections at ~~[[its]]~~ front and rear ends of the main frame, which allow the stretcher to be mounted on the stretcher mounting and rotation members;

a cover or coating covering ~~[[the]]~~ an upper surface of the main frame ~~in order~~ to secure the first mattress; and

a folding section or back support provided as a hinge at ~~[[the]]~~ a front portion of the stretcher ~~in order~~ to keep the patient seated on it.

18. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 17, wherein the first mattress is divided into a front mattress section moving as a hinge and

coincident with the folding section; and a rear mattress section provided with a removable section which, once ~~it is~~ removed from the first mattress, allows a bedpan to be put in place a ~~bedpan~~ in order for the patient to evacuate.

19. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 18, wherein the first mattress surface further comprises on it front and rear padded stop sections which are detachably ~~jointed~~ joined or attached as a hinge to the mattress sides by attachment and closing means;

wherein, by being placed on the first mattress, ~~such~~ the stop sections form a space between them simulating the patient's body contour, thereby preventing ~~thus~~ the patient ~~to be~~ from being laterally moved when performing the ~~rotationally~~ rotational movement of the stretchers[[]].

wherein, ~~Likewise~~ likewise, the front and rear stop sections act as a side extension surface of the first mattress when they are moved on ~~such~~ the attachment and closing means, the side extension surface being ~~useful~~ used to place on it light articles or the patient's arms or legs.

20. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 19, wherein ~~such~~ the attachment and closing means are hook strips and short fibers (~~Velcro~~).

21. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 17, wherein the first mattress is coated with a watertight material such as canvas or plastic.

22. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 17,
wherein the folding section is integrated by:

a secondary frame in a rectangular shape which is attached as a hinge to the main frame of
the first stretcher;

a support frame attached as a hinge to [[the]] a lower portion of the secondary frame and
allowing the back support to ~~keep the back support~~ be kept at the desired position when ~~such a~~
the frame is supported on the main frame of the first stretcher by means of a horizontal support
base; and

position selection bars attached to [[the]] a longitudinal sides of the main frame of the
first stretcher, ~~such~~ the bars provided with a plurality of position notches where the ends of the
support base are received ~~in order~~ to achieve [[the]] a desired inclination of the back support.

23. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 22,
wherein the back support is further provided with back support securing means allowing the back
support to be secured [[it]] to the main frame of the first stretcher in a horizontal position.

24. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 23,
wherein ~~such~~ the securing means [[are]] is a pin that is introduced in a cooperating notch or
recess provided at one of the front lower corners of the main frame of the first stretcher.

25. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 17, wherein the stretcher mounting sections are provided in the main frame of the first stretcher in [[the]] a shape of a horizontal transversal bar.

26. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 17, wherein the main frame and the folding section of the first stretcher are made of metal materials such as aluminum or steel.

27. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 17, wherein the coating is made of a watertight material such as canvas or plastic.

28. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 1, wherein, in addition to the second mattress of the second stretcher, it comprises:

a main frame in a rectangular shape including stretcher mounting sections at [[its]] front and rear ends of the main frame, which allow the stretcher to be mounted on the stretcher mounting and rotation members;

front, intermediate, and rear coating portions that are apart from each other and that cover most of [[the]] an upper surface of the main frame, the second mattress being placed on [[the]] an intermediate and rear coating portion ~~in order~~ to support most of the patient's body when [[he]] the patient is laying face down; and

a pillow or cushion placed on the front coating portion to support the patient's forehead when [[he]] the patient is laying face down.

29. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 28, wherein ~~such a~~ the pillow and the front coating ~~section~~ portion are respectively apart from the second mattress and from the intermediate coating ~~section~~ portion by a distance sufficient to allow the patient ~~having to have~~ to have a free visual field [[and]] with no interferences when [[he]] the patient is laying face down.

30. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 28, wherein the main frame of the second stretcher is made of metal materials such as aluminum or steel.

31. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 28, wherein the coating ~~sections~~ portions are made of a watertight material such as canvas or plastic.

32. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 28, wherein the second mattress and the pillow are coated with a watertight material such as canvas or plastic.

33. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 28, wherein the stretcher mounting sections are provided in the main frame in ~~[[the]]~~ a shape of a horizontal transversal bar.

34. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 33, wherein the horizontal bar conforming the mounting sections of the first and second stretchers is pressed between the proximal plate and distal plate of a stretcher securing means so that, when the lever of ~~such a~~ the stretcher securing member is closed, stretchers are firmly mounted by means of ~~such a~~ the horizontal bar.

35. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 34, wherein the mounting sections of the first and second stretchers, ~~as well as~~ and the stretcher securing members include alignment and centering means allowing ~~[[the]]~~ central longitudinal axis of both stretchers to be placed at a common vertical plane, along with the ~~patient~~ rotation axis, when the stretchers are mounted on the stretcher securing means, achieving thereby a perfect balance of the stretchers with respect to the ~~patient~~ rotation axis and the structural base, and facilitating ~~thus~~ the patient 180° rotation.

36. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 35, wherein ~~such~~ the alignment and centering means are integrated by cooperating cylindrical protrusions provided ~~at the~~ in a middle portion of ~~every~~ each of the mounting sections of both

stretchers, the protrusions being perpendicularly projected upwards and downwards from the mounting sections, so that ~~they~~ the protrusions are received in ~~cooperating~~ corresponding holes provided ~~both~~ in the proximal plate and in the distal plate of ~~every~~ each of the stretcher securing means.

37. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 35, wherein ~~every~~ each of the stretcher securing means further comprises ~~also~~ guide means to initially receive the front and rear mounting sections of the stretcher to be mounted[[.]], wherein, ~~From such a~~ from the position, the guide means arrive ~~to such a~~ at the mounting section between the proximal plate and the distal plate of the stretcher securing means, where ~~they~~ the guide means are firmly mounted upon actuating the closing lever.

38. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 37, wherein ~~such~~ the guide means are formed [[by]] in an intermediate plate located between the distal plate and the proximal plate and integrally attached to the latter[[;]], wherein ~~such an~~ the intermediate plate has a cutout or notch with a circular path formed from [[its] a surface of the intermediate plate, the cutout having a closed end at [[the]] an inner portion of the intermediate plate and an open end at [[its]] an edge of the intermediate plate[[.]],

wherein, [[In]] in a first operation, the stretcher securing member is rotated by 90° ~~on its~~ around a mounting axis thereof, so that the intermediate plate is directed towards [[the]] an inner portion of the bed to place on it one of the ~~corresponding~~ mounting sections of the stretchers that

is ~~being to be~~ mounted and, at the same time, one of the corresponding cylindrical protrusions is introduced, which protrudes downwards from the mounting section at the closed end of ~~such a~~ the cutout[[.]]; and subsequently ~~Then~~, in a second operation, the stretcher securing means is returned to its original position so that, with this movement, the one of the protrusions runs along ~~such a~~ the cutout while the mounting section is received at the proximal plate or distal plate under it in order that, once this operation is completed, the mounting section is placed between the proximal and distal plates[[;]], and the protrusion is introduced in [[the]] a plate hole receiving the mounting section, whereby the plates are ready to be closed by means of the closing lever.

39. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 1, wherein ~~every~~ each of the side barriers comprises:

an elongated body with a central section in a rectangular shape and end portions in trapezoidal shape[[;]], wherein the ~~elongated body ends~~ end portions are provided with vertical bars including a plurality of lower and upper bores which receive coupling means provided in the first and second stretchers, thereby allowing the barrier to be coupled to both stretchers, each of the upper and lower bores being apart one from another by a vertical distance.

40. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 39, wherein ~~such~~ the coupling means are formed by bolts included in ~~every~~ each outer corner of the

longitudinal sides of the first stretcher, ~~as well as~~ and of the second stretcher, ~~such~~ the bolts crossing and protruding from ~~such a~~ the plurality of lower and upper bores.

41. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 40, wherein ~~such~~ the bolts ~~preferably~~ have a cylindrical body with a conical tip and include a circumferential notch around [[its]] a middle part of the cylindrical body, ~~such a~~ the notch having such a width and deepness that [[it]] the notch supports the width of the vertical bars provided with ~~every~~ each of the upper and lower bores receiving the bolt, allowing thereby ~~to couple~~ the side barriers to be coupled to the stretchers.

42. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 39, wherein the side barriers are made of metal materials such as aluminum or steel.

43. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 13, wherein, at the radial sections of the stretcher mounting and rotation members where the stretcher supporting the patient laying face down is mounted, the rotation-blocking means are released by its weight.

44. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 43, wherein the internal rotation-blocking means of the radial sections where the stretcher placed over the patient is mounted are released by closing the levers of the stretcher securing means

using the closing lever, provided that the side barriers are coupled to the stretchers, ~~such~~ the side barriers generating an upwards movement of the internal rotation-blocking means.

45. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 6, wherein ~~such a~~ the rotation support axis is ~~preferably~~ formed by a steel tube section and coaxially lined up to ~~such~~ the conduits for the introduction of traction means.

46. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 11, wherein the internal rotation-blocking means are provided in pairs within ~~every~~ each of the rear and front members to rotatably mount ~~rotate~~ the stretchers, each pair of the internal rotation-blocking means being housed in ~~every~~ each of the radial sections of the housing.

47. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 25, wherein the horizontal bar conforming the mounting sections of the first and second stretchers is pressed between the proximal plate and distal plate of a stretcher securing means so that, when the lever of ~~such a~~ the stretcher securing member is closed, the stretchers are firmly mounted by means of ~~such a~~ the horizontal bar.

48. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 33, wherein the horizontal bar conforming the mounting sections of the first and second stretchers is pressed between the proximal plate and distal plate of a stretcher securing means so that, when

the lever of ~~such a~~ the stretcher securing member is closed, the stretchers are firmly mounted by means of ~~such a~~ the horizontal bar.

49. (currently amended) [[A]] The rotating therapeutic bed according to claim 11, wherein the internal rotation-blocking means of the radial sections where the stretcher placed over the patient is mounted are released by closing the levers of the stretcher securing means using the closing lever, provided that the side barriers are coupled to the stretchers, ~~such~~ the side barriers generating an upwards movement of the internal rotation-blocking means.